(c) whether any research institutes have been set up to modernise gur production units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) Government proposes to undertake a special study on gur industry.

(c) No such research institute has been set up by the Ministry of Food, so far.

(d) Question does not arise.

Small scale Units Manufacturing Gur

1581. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the number of small scale units manufacturing gur in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the State-wise break up of gur manufacturing units ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Question does not arise.

Price rise in food items

1582. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a rise in the prices of food items in the recent period;

(b) if so, the details therefor; and

(c) Government's reaction in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) A statement showing percentage variation in indices of wholesale prices of selected essential food items during the month of April 1994 to July 1994 is attached. (*See* below).

(c) The Government has been monitoring the prices and availability of essential commodities on regular basis. Inter-Ministerial Committees monitor prices of selected essential commodities for appropriate and timely action.

Statement

Month-wise percentage variation in the wholesale price index numbers of selected essential food items during the month of April, 1994 to July, 1994

Commodity	Percentage Variation			
	April 94	May, 94	June, 94	July, 94 (upto 16-7-94)
Rice	Steady	—0.9	+0.9	+2.2
Wheat	—4.1	—3.0	+0.3	+1.7
Gram	—7.7	+1.2	—0.3	—2.8
Arhar	—1.6	—1.6	+0.2	+2.4
Potatoes	—2.1	—1.7	+16.9	+16.8
Onions	—13.1	—2.7	—0.7	+1.9
Milk	+4.2	+4.2	—0.1	—0.3
Tea	—6.8	+14.0	+2.7	+18.1
Atta	—1.8	+0.2	—0.3	—0.4
Sugar	+1.9	+4.8	+0.8	—3.1
Salt	—0.1	—0.3	Steady	Steady
Vanaspati	+2.6	+5.0	—0.1	+0.5
Mustard oil	+2.1	+1.4	+1.3	+1.6
Coconut oil	+0.3	—0.7	—0.6	—1.2
Groundnut oil	+6.6	+3.1	+3.5	+3.6